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First Space Pilot Selected By AF

CPYRGHT

While Drew Pearson is with the Harlem Globetrotters on a bounce into a roller-coaster, good-will tour of North Africa, elliptical course as he revolves here are being written around the globe. He will dip a little lower each time until he gradually enters the atmosphere, slowing down as he encounters heavier air.

By Jack Anderson

The Air Force has already picked the space pilot who will make the first rearing flight into outer space, an American, Columbus, whose first name is Ivan. He is Capt. Ivan Kincheloe, now training at Edwards Air Base, Calif., for his great adventure as America's first space explorer.

He will soar into space in stages—first 100 miles, then 400 miles. Finally, he will swing his X-15 rocket plane into an orbit around the earth, making it the first manned satellite. The Air Force timetable calls for this feat in the breathtaking short space of three years, provided Congress will foot the modest bill (estimated at less than \$500,000).

Kincheloe's glory will be shared with a civilian pilot, Scott Crossfield, who will put the X-15 through its paces for North American Aviation before it is delivered to the Air Force. Crossfield's flight tests should be more limited, however, than those the Air Force is planning for Captain Kincheloe.

The amazing X-15 should be ready for its first limited flight test by the end of 1955. Kincheloe's first goal will be to take it out of the earth's atmosphere to an anticipated altitude of more than 100 miles.

In the next test series, he will use the boosters from the abandoned Navaho missile to shoot another 300 miles into space.

From these staggered heights, he will practice entering the earth's atmosphere.

Sometime in 1961, American wants to add a booster to the X-15 which make it, in effect, a three-stage rocket. Using the third booster, Kincheloe will throw the rocket plane into orbit and start dropping sputniks around the earth at a speed of over 12,000 miles an hour.

The Air Force officer has already been fitted for a space suit. He will ride in a tiny pressurized cabin with an atmospheric bubble, which is scientifically sound for a trip to the moon. In fact, this may be Kincheloe's next stop.

Soviet Progress

In a startling report to President Eisenhower's Committee on Scientists and Engineers, Robert Scoville, assistant director of the hush-hush Central Intelligence Agency, has shattered the myth that Russia is concentrated on military matters, neglecting the other sciences.

"The Russians are ahead in total scientific and technical professional manpower," he warned bluntly. "If these trends continue, our situation will get worse."

Assistant CIA chief cited the Soviet field in which Americans consider themselves superior. Yet in Moscow alone there are 2 million scientists, he said, "compared favorably with the situation in this country."

"The Russian sets are of a quality; their components are superior to those of our sets," he declared. "As a picture performance, as in Russian sets. However, the cost is considerably higher in Russia."

Scoville also praised the "quality of their work in color TV." Atomic energy is another field in which Americans believe they excel. Yet Scoville reported the Russians have conducted nuclear tests on a large scale but "have been conducting two atomic test series simultaneously at great distances apart, which means they have enough people and equipment to handle two tests at once."

We have never run simultaneous nuclear tests, though we have atomic testing grounds as far apart as the Nevada desert and Kniwetok. And for put in the hands of the Russians. Scoville reported, "have set up

at Dushanbe, making the rocket and training facilities available to scientists from 15 different countries. The Soviet Union has a large number of scientists, particularly in its military and scientific research, and is making a considerable effort to improve its scientific and technical research.

At least Kincheloe is ahead in agriculture, Scoville said. "In agriculture, Russia is about 20 years behind the U. S. People, however, are again being trained in the sound fundamentals and are now working along production lines."

But the total picture is no cause for complacency.

"To summarize," the intelligence expert concluded, "the Russians have a very large number of scientific and engineering people and their educational system is good. However, particularly at the lower levels, they may suppress initiative. This is a quality we would do well to stress in our system as it may offset some of the other Soviet advantages."

Missile-Go-Round

Watch for a series of startling rocket tests in the Arctic Circle about the end of January. The tests will be conducted in the name of "scientific research," but are really intended as dramatic evidence that the Russians can bombard our NATO allies with missiles.

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